



Flathead Conservation District
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Phone: 406-752-4220 Fax: 406-752-4077
Web site: www.flatheadcd.org

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Chairman Ronald Buentemeier called the July 24, 2017, Business meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present:

Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; Dean Sirucek, Secretary/Treasurer; John Ellis, Supervisor; Supervisor; Lori Curtis, Supervisor, being a quorum of the Board. Verdell Jackson came into the meeting at 7:15 P.M.

Board members absent: Mark Siderius, Supervisor. Absence is excused.

Also in attendance were: Valerie Kurth and Cynthia Ingelfinger, FCD staff; Tiffany Martin, River Steward; Bonnier Streeter; RG Dickey; Angél Rosario and Tim Dutton, NRCS.

MINUTES

Dean Sirucek made a motion "to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2017, 310-stream permit meeting as presented." John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Lori Curtis made a motion "to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2017, budget meeting as presented." John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email: Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are hosting the following Soil Health Workshops: 1/16 Three Forks, 1/17 Great Falls, 1/18 Billings, 1/19 Miles City & Sidney. Contact swcdm.org/soil-health
2. Email: CD staff & supervisors workshop, 10/31-11/1, Heritage Inn, Great Falls. Cost \$85/person. Contact Cascade Conservation District 406-727-3603, Ext. 111, secretary@cascadecd.com. Contact Heritage Inn 406-761-1900 to reserve rooms.
3. Email: Whitefish Planning Board meeting, July 20, 2017, 6:00 P.M., Whitefish City Council Chambers.
4. Email: Warning letter dated 7/7/2017 from DEQ to landowner on Flathead River.
5. Email: Stillwater Conservation District Administrator job announcement. Contact Stillwater CD 406-322-5359, Ext. 101. Closing date 7/31/2017.
6. Email: DNRC Planning Grant applications due 9/1/2017. www.fundingmt.org
7. Email: Livestock Loss Prevention grant (wolf only) applications due 8/30/2017. www.llb.mt.gov
8. Email: Lower Musselshell CD newsletter *LMCD Conservation News* <http://lmcdistrict.com>
9. Email: Gallatin CD newsletter *Conservation Journal* <http://www.gallatincd.org>



FINANCIAL

The following bills were reviewed:

1. CenturyLink \$262.71
2. VISA \$543.96
3. Byte Savvy \$170.00

Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the bills as presented.” Pete Woll seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

RG Dickey stated he had completed a permitted project on Canal Street. He submitted two applications for the same type of project, and asked about on-sites. John Ellis will do the on-site inspections. The on-site inspections were set for Thursday, July 27, meeting at 8:45 A.M. at FWP, 9:30 A.M. at the site.

310

TIKKA, FL2016032 & FL2016033, Ashley Creek, permit ext requests: Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to extend FL2016032 and FL2016033 for one year.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

RIVER STEWARD UPDATE: Tiffany Martin presented an update on the first half of her Big Sky Watershed Corps term as the River Steward. She highlighted the positive experiences she had working at Forestry Expo and helping with the cottonwood direct seeding experiment.

EDUCATION GRANTS: Cynthia Ingelfinger presented a summary of the education grant applications.

Whitefish Legacy Partners

John Ellis made a motion “to approve the proposal from Whitefish Legacy Partners without the bear skin.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Discussion held. Tie vote. Motion failed.

Lori Curtis made a motion “to approve the Whitefish Legacy Partners education grant proposal as presented.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Discussion held. Tie vote. Motion failed.

Whitefish High School

Lori Curtis made a motion “to approve the Whitefish High School education grant request, without the wetsuits, in the amount of \$2942, and asked that Flathead CD (FCD) communicate with Eric Sawtelle about sharing the equipment with other educators.”

Verdell Jackson seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Helena Flats School

Lori Curtis made a motion “to approve the Helena Flats School education grant proposal for \$4,899.60.” Pete Woll seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.



SOCIAL MEDIA: Cynthia Ingelfinger presented a proposal to create a Facebook page for Flathead CD. Discussion held. John Ellis made a motion “to approve an Flathead CD Facebook page for the period of 1 year and that the staff report Facebook page utilization at the end of one year.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

COST-SHARE PROJECT: Bonnie Streeter presented a cost-share request on behalf of her parents, Don and Jean Bromley for assistance with weed control. Discussion held. Lori Curtis made a motion “to approve the cost-share project at 20 hours of labor, and the applicant must submit invoice documenting number of hours of labor.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion passed with one nay.

GRANT APPLICATIONS: Valerie Kurth presented opportunities for on-the-ground projects for Cow Creek and Trumbull Creek. Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion “to have staff move forward on the Trumbull Creek planning proposal.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

John Ellis made a motion “to have staff proceed on the Cow Creek DEQ 319 Nonpoint Source program application.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
Lori Curtis abstained from voting.

310-ADMIN GR #CDA-17-1810 FINAL REPORT: Valerie Kurth presented the 310 administrative grant final report. Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the final report for 310 Administrative grant #CDA-17-1810 as presented.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FURNITURE DISPOSAL REQUEST: Valerie Kurth presented a furniture disposal request. Discussion held. John Ellis made a motion “to approve the furniture disposal request to donate the computer desk to a thrift store.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF CIVIL RIGHTS RESPONSIBILITIES: Angél Rosario, NRCS, presented the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners checklist. The board signed the affirmation of review.



REPORTS

NRCS REPORT: Angél Rosario, NRCS, reported:
EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)

-Miscellaneous

WRP (Wetland Reserve Program)

-Stream work progress on Lost Trail Refuge

Other

-Miscellaneous activities, meetings and visits

-Hiring freeze update

STAFF REPORT: Valerie Kurth and Cynthia Ingelfinger reported:

Cost-Share Program

Valerie compiled and mailed contract packets to the two landowners who had their applications approved in June, as well as the landowner whose project was extended.

Valerie and Dean Sirucek conducted a site visit on July 20th for a new application.

District Office and Outreach

1. June advertisements: 310-Dock, 310-Wake
2. Valerie distributed the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Declaratory Ruling document to the interested parties and finalized the exhibit files for the declaratory ruling on Bear Creek. She also wrote thank you letters to Laurie Zeller, Don MacIntyre, and Bob Flesher for their help throughout this process.
3. Valerie created new fillable PDF forms for 310 site conversation records.
4. Cynthia attended the River to Lake (R2L) meeting on July 12th and the Haskill Basin Watershed Council meeting on July 12th.
5. Cynthia and Valerie cleaned out the Flathead CD shed and organized contents.
6. Cynthia and Valerie attended the Northwestern Agricultural Research Center's experiment tour on July 13th.
7. Valerie, Cynthia, and Pete Woll met with Kristy Whitsitt on July 17th to follow up on their 310 permit, possible outreach to their Homeowners Association, and to provide riparian planting education materials.
8. Valerie arranged an informational meeting with the landowner on Olympia Way regarding the culvert on Trumbull Creek. Mark Siderius and Ron Buentemeier also helped at the meeting.
9. Cynthia and Valerie learned about soils and geology of the Flathead Valley with Dean Sirucek on June 28th. Franz Ingelfinger (Fish Wildlife & Parks) and Tiffany Martin (River Steward) also joined us.



Education and Outreach

CORE – Cynthia has been editing the Flathead Community of Resource Educators (CORE) website content.

Rolling Rivers Trailer – Cynthia and Valerie did Rolling Rivers Trailer presentations for high schoolers at the Summit Prep School on July 11th.

Outreach –

- Cynthia and Valerie met with Mike Koopal (Whitefish Lake Institute), Karin Hilding (City of Whitefish) and Eric Sawtelle (Whitefish High School) to explore a possible on-the-ground project on Cow Creek. They also held a follow-up meeting with Mike and Lori Curtis to discuss 319 grant funding and possible project activities.
- Cynthia has been working with Kate Arpin (Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana) on Flathead CD program and landowner outreach brochure development and content.
- Cynthia met with Hilary Devlin (Flathead Lakers) about landowner outreach materials and homeowner association outreach efforts.
- Cynthia coordinated theme and content ideas for the NW MT Fair with Teresa Wenum at USFS and visited the fair booth location.
- Cynthia and Valerie met with Pat McGlynn (Montana State University Extension) about the small acreage landowner workshop content and organization.

Website

Cynthia posted new blogs about the Rolling Rivers Trailers, Cost Share program extension and the MT Conservation Menu new website.



Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM)

Samantha Tappenbeck, Area Resource Specialist, submitted the following report:

Progress on Thompson River Basin Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP):

- Landowner outreach to residents/private landowners in the Thompson River basin is ongoing:
 - Information about WRP and link to more info and online survey
 - There have been 10 responses from interested stakeholders to the online survey; follow-up correspondence has been sent to each respondent
 - Currently editing sections 1-5
 - Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group (LCFWG) is looking for feedback on organization info about Flathead CD

Workshop on stream gaging in the Flathead Basin:

The Flathead River Commission is interested in developing and hosting a workshop to:

- better understand the past and present distribution of gage networks
- educate participants on how gages are funded, operated, and maintained
- identify current data needs for Flathead River Commission (FRC) and others

Ranching For Rivers program (SWCDM):

- \$65K available for projects to support responsible grazing of the riparian zone:
 - benefits to landowners, benefits to the river
 - Pilot from last year spent \$40K on 5 smaller projects
- Funding is from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Clean Water Act (CWA) section 319:
 - Can only be spent in areas with an accepted WRP
 - Monitoring component - will conduct monitoring with permission from landowner
- Logistics on the producer side:
 - 50% cost share - infrastructure: fencing, water tanks, water gaps, hardened crossings, etc.
 - Landowner agreements
 - Assistance from certified grazing assistance plan developer
- Complementary to NRCS programs:
 - Support single practice projects that may not rank well in the EQIP program
- Program available late summer or early fall
- Contact Samantha Tappenbeck (406-291-6314) or Jess Makus at SWCDM (406-443-5711)

Conservation Menu (SWCDM) www.mtconservationmenu.org

- SWCDM has released the Montana Conservation Menu website to serve as a hub/clearinghouse for all conservation-related programs
- Six program categories: Water, Forestry, Soils, Weeds, Pollinators, Rangeland
- Consolidates diverse and numerous programs into one user-friendly format
- Program and organization/agency information, contact information, keyword search
- Further input welcome! Any suggestions or comments contact Samantha Tappenbeck (406-291-6314) or SWCDM main office (406-443-5711)

MACD REPORT: Pete Woll reported that he participated in the *MACD Committee for Committees*. He anticipates proposed changes will be finalized and released in a few weeks.



FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION REPORT: No meeting held. The next meeting is September 27th.

FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD: Dean Sirucek reported that the July 12th meeting included two zone change requests: 26 acres on Whitefish Stage from SAG-10 to SAG-5, and 10 acres on Autumn Glory Way from SAG-10 to SAG-5; and a request for preliminary plat approval of Riverside Subdivision. All three moved forward with positive recommendations to the Flathead County Commissioners.

WHITEFISH CITY PLANNING BOARD: John Ellis reported that the planning board discussed re-writing Whitefish zoning regulations for planned units.

HASKILL BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL (HBWC): Cynthia Ingelfinger reported that FCD received the engineering report for the culvert replacement on Haskill Basin Road. The next HBWC meeting is August 9th.

FLATHEAD RIVER COMMISSION (FRC): No report. Verdell Jackson stated that he wants to provide board members with copies of the FRC meeting minutes.

CLARK FORK BASIN COUNCIL: No report.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

- DEQ violation on the Flathead River
- Payroll
- Fair sign-up
- Aquaculture tour
- Photo of forestry practices
- 310 site visits

The next 310-stream permit meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 14, 2017, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

ADJOURNMENT: Pete Woll made a motion “to adjourn.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

Submitted By: Valerie Kurth, Resource Conservationist

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

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|------------------|---------------------------|---|
| <u>8/14/2017</u> | <u>Ronald Buentemeier</u> | <u>Chairman</u> |
| (Date) | (Signature) | (Title - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, etc.) |

